

**BOARD BILL # 143 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED BY ALDERMAN  
STEPHEN CONWAY, ALDERWOMAN JENNIFER FLORIDA, ALDERMAN SHANE  
COHN, ALDERMAN KENNETH ORTMANN**

1 An ordinance designating the *Iris* as the official flower of the City of St. Louis; and containing  
2 an effective date clause.

3 **WHEREAS**, the City St. Louis was founded by Pierre de Laclède on February 15, 1764  
4 during the reign of King Louis XV of France; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Laclède named his settlement, that he believed “might eventually become  
6 one of the finest cities in America,” in honor of his King’s patron saint, Louis IX of France –  
7 Saint Louis; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the “fleur-de-lis” is the symbol of said Saint Louis and is incorporated in  
9 the official flag of the City of St. Louis; and

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the Missouri Botanical Garden, the original “fleur-de-lis” is  
11 thought to be the European and African yellow water flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) that, according to  
12 one legend, helped save a 6<sup>th</sup> century French army from a larger hostile force that had it cornered  
13 in a river bend until the French king spotted the iris in the water and directed his army across this  
14 shallow ford in the river to safety; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the grateful king chose the Iris as the symbol of the royal family; and later,  
16 King Louis VII of France maintained the Iris as the royal symbol in the crusades and, at that  
17 time, the flower and symbol based on it became know as the “fleur-de-Louis,” which evolved  
18 into “fleur-de-lis;” and

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Alderman Shane Cohn, Alderman Kenneth Ortmann

1       **WHEREAS**, conservation of Missouri native *Iris* through preservation of habitat,  
2 restoration and appropriate landscaping will contribute to the biodiversity and heritage of the St.  
3 Louis region: and

4       **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Francis G. Slay, Mayor, and Mr. Gary D. Bess, Director of  
5 Parks, Recreation and Forestry, of the City of St. Louis, Mr. John A. Karel, Director of Tower  
6 Grove Park, and Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, President of the Missouri Botanical Garden, have  
7 jointly declared 2014 as the “Year of the Iris” in the St. Louis City Parks, Tower Grove Park and  
8 the Missouri Botanical Garden in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of St. Louis;

9       **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

10       **SECTION ONE.** The *Iris* is hereby designated the official flower of the City of St. Louis.

11       **SECTION TWO. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective on February 15,  
12 2014, the date of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the City of St. Louis by Pierre de  
13 Laclède.

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